

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

July 25, 2000

Maricopa Association of Governments Office
302 North First Avenue, Suite 200, Saguaro Room,
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Wickenburg: Fred Carpenter, Vice-Chair
ADOT: Chuck Eaton for Dan Lance
*Avondale: William Bates
Buckeye: Joe Blanton
Chandler: Dan Cook for Bryan Patterson
*Gilbert: Tami Ryall
Glendale: Jim Book
Goodyear: Cato Esquivel
*Litchfield Park: Mike Cartsonis

*Maricopa County: Tom Buick
Mesa: Jeff Martin
Paradise Valley: Tom Martinsen
Peoria: David Moody
Phoenix: Tom Callow
RPTA: Ken Driggs
Scottsdale: Peggy Carpenter for John C.
Little
*Surprise: Ellis Perl

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

Regional Bicycle Task Force: Maureen
Mageau-DeCindis RPTA for Eric Iwersen,
Tempe
*Street Committee: Grant Anderson, Glendale
ITS Committee: Jim Book

Pedestrian Advisory Group: Reed Kempton,
Maricopa County Dept of Transportation
*Telecommunications Advisory Group:
Debbie Kohn, Avondale

* Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Shannon Diamond, MAG
Stuart Boggs, MAG
Don Herp, Phoenix
Lynn Timmons, Phoenix
Bob Antila, RPTA
Bill Mee, Phoenix
Dawn Coomer, MAG
Mary O'Connor, Tempe

Eric Anderson, MAG
Terry Johnson, MAG
Michelle Korf, Scottsdale
Paul Ward, MAG
Steve Tate, MAG
Maureen Mageau-DeCindis, RPTA
Don Dey, TransCore
Kwi-Sung Kang, ADOT

1. Call to Order

Fred Carpenter, Vice-Chairman, called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

2. Approval of the June 27, 2000 Meeting Minutes

The Vice-Chairman asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the June meeting. There being no corrections to the minutes, Chuck Eaton moved to approve the June meeting minutes. Michelle Korf seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Call to the Audience

Vice-Chairman Carpenter asked if there were any members of the public present who would like to make a comment. There being no response the Vice-Chairman turned to the next item on the agenda, the Transportation Managers Report.

4. Transportation Manager's Report

Turning to the next order of business, Vice-Chairman Carpenter introduced Terry Johnson of MAG who gave the Transportation Manager's Report. Johnson briefed the Committee on the FY 2001-2005 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and FY 2000 update of the Long Range Transportation Plan. Johnson also noted that MAG would be soliciting projects from the modal committees for the next TIP cycle in September. He told the Committee that they would hear a presentation by Eric Anderson of MAG on the proposed Regional Transportation Plan development process under agenda item number 6.

5. Report on the MAG Freeway Program

Turning to the next order of business, Vice-Chairman Carpenter introduced Eric Anderson who briefed the Committee on the MAG Freeway Program. Anderson told the Committee that there would be an Early Phase public involvement Transportation Stakeholders Meeting on August 1, 2000 at MAG. Anderson then briefed the Committee on the MAG Freeway Program. He noted that changes to the SR 51/Squaw Peak freeway project included additional lanes on the interchange ramps at the Loop 101 TI. Anderson also noted that ADOT was developing a concept for the Santan/Red Mountain and US 60 interchange. He also discussed the program's financial picture, noting that project costs and revenues were in balance. Anderson also told the Committee that sales tax revenues had exceeded projections by approximately \$2 million. HURF funding had also exceeded projections. Chuck Eaton of ADOT described the performance audit being undertaken by his agency and noted that the audit was almost complete. Eaton felt that the results of the audit were good and the recommendations made by the auditor would result in improvements in project management.

6. Revised Generalized Concept Paper for a New Regional Transportation Plan

Turning to the next order of business, Vice-Chairman Carpenter introduced Eric Anderson of MAG who briefed the Committee on the revised generalized concept paper for a new regional transportation plan. Anderson briefed the Committee on the review process of the Regional Transportation Plan which had been undertaken by MAG since the June meeting. Anderson summarized the comments and concerns raised by the Regional Council's Transportation Subcommittee which had met just prior to the Transportation Review Committee. Their comments included a need for adequate representation by the valley's Indian communities in the transportation planning process. Anderson noted that the committee was concerned that the development of the plan would delay development of the statewide transportation plan. To address this concern a two prong planning approach was being considered that would include both an interim and long range process. The interim process would involve annual updates of the Long Range Transportation Plan to address programming and funding concerns in the short term. The long range process would address the need to develop a new vision or mission for the region.

Anderson noted that the Transportation Subcommittee expressed concern that the proposed two to three year development process for the new plan would leave insufficient time to prepare for an election to extend the sales tax or to identify and develop other funding sources. He also told the group that some committee members were concerned that a long public interest/outreach process would not hold the public's attention.

Before moving to the next agenda item, Terry Johnson told the Committee that Fred Carpenter had been made chairman of the Transportation Review Committee.

7. Update on Off-Street System (ROSS)

Turning to the next item of business, Chairman Carpenter introduced Dawn Coomer of MAG who briefed the Committee on the status of the ROSS Plan. Coomer told the group that the study will identify opportunities for off-street travel routes for bicyclists and pedestrians throughout the MAG region. Coomer noted that there were numerous non-motorized travel opportunities in the region using existing off-street rights-of-way and easements, such as canals, linear parkways, flood control channels and utility line easements. She told the Committee that the ROSS Plan will identify these opportunities and create an action plan to create comfortable travel ways for bicyclists and pedestrians using these corridors.

Coomer noted that many short distance car trips could be replaced by bicycling and walking. The off-street system would expand travel options for area residents and provide environmental benefits through reduction of vehicle trips. She told the group that planning oversight was being provided by the Regional Bicycle Task Force and the Pedestrian Working Group. Public involvement included a regional trails forum, newsletters describing the project, a web site and press releases to the local media.

Coomer noted that the ROSS Plan included design standards that were applied to demonstration projects. An opportunities/constraints analysis was also applied to selected corridors. A significant issue examined by the ROSS Plan were midblock crossings. Design solutions, including grade separation and signalized crossings, were examined. The plan also sought to identify ways to encourage off street system use by incorporating amenities within the identified corridors. In closing, Coomer told the group that the next steps in the process included development of an implementation guide and a action plan. She told the group that a draft plan would be completed by late August.

Chairman Carpenter thanked Coomer for her presentation and then asked if there were any questions or comments. Jim Book noted that the plan's vision statement did not include any reference to recreation. Coomer replied that it was decided that trip reasons should not be identified since federal program funds make a distinction between commuter and recreational use of bicycle facilities, something that is not done for auto or public transit trips. Tom Callow asked if the Salt River Project (SRP) had been receptive to the idea of using their facilities. Coomer replied that SRP had been involved in discussions on the plan but had not indicated if they had a formalized policy related to public access/use of their facilities. They instead had indicated that they would evaluate use requests on a case by case basis.

Book wondered if SRP's concerns could be addressed by a node rather than corridor treatment of routes. When asked to elaborate, Book noted that a node approach would focus on providing amenities at major corridor intersections rather than throughout the corridor. Coomer indicated that this approach could be considered since they are already using a

similar approach to deal with corridor termini. Dan Cook asked if Chandler's Bicycle Plan had been incorporated into the ROSS Plan. Coomer indicated that it had been.

Chairman Carpenter, noting that the plan was on the agenda for information and discussion, asked if it would be brought back to the group for action in September? Coomer replied that it would be brought back to the group for action when complete. Terry Johnson noted that the plan had been brought to the Committee early for their information.

8. Next Meeting Date

Chairman Carpenter told the group that the next meeting will be held on August 22nd at 10:00 a.m. in the Saguaro Room, 2nd floor, MAG offices. Terry Johnson informed the group that the Committee did not normally meet in August so the next meeting would actually be in September.

There being no other business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:53 a.m.